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TIMES-VIRGINIAN

A LIVELY WEEKLY NEWSPAPER AT HISTORIC APPOMATTOX COURT HOUSE, VIRGINIA

SINGLE COPY PRICE 25 CENTS

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MOTHER NATURE PROVED FICKLE the past five days, as she followed a spring-like spell of weather with a bitter blast of winter wind over the weekend. The wind, which was accompanied by cold temperatures, did severe damage to the roof of the Promise Land Church five miles from the town of Appomattox on Route 604. The wind also knocked an antenna off the top of the 400-foot State Police communications tower, and damaged the display signs of several commercial establishments around the county. Appomattox was not alone in its meterological misery, however, as other parts of the country were plagued with tornadoes and snow. (Photo by Allen Austin)

Robb appoints Babcock to grants commission

Virginia M. Babcock has been named by Charles S. Robb, Governor of the Commonwealth of Virginia, to the Commission on Block Grants.

Babcock, director of the Appomattox County Department of Social Services, is married to H. Webster Babcock. They are the parents of two children, H. Webster Babcock, Jr. of Lynchburg and Pat Babcock Paulette of Appomattox. They have two grandchildren, Traci and Bruce H. Paulette III.

A daughter of the late Senator and Mrs. Charles T. Moses, Sr., she was educated in the Appomattox County Public Schools; she is a graduate of Lynchburg College and the University of Virginia.

She is a member of Memorial United Methodist Church where she serves as a Sunday school teacher and is a member of the Administrative Board. She is also a member of the Appomattox Woman's Club; Red Hill Chapter of DAR; Appomattox Garden Club; Appomattox Historical Society; Falling River Country Club and American Legion Auxiliary Post 104.

Prior to accepting the position as Director of the Appomattox County Department of Social Services seven years ago, she worked with the Juvenile and Domestic Relations Probation Services for seven years. She also taught in the elementary school system of Amherst County.

The Commission will be responsible for advising the Governor on federal block grant programs and making recommendations to him on the Commonwealth's participation in such programs.

VIRGINIA M. BABCOCK

Historic events of 1865 remembered

EDITOR'S NOTE: The following information was prepared by the National Park Service and submitted to the Times-Virginian and other area newspapers for publication.

Here on Palm Sunday, April 9, 1865, General Robert E. Lee surrendered the most renowned and [illegible] to Union Commander Ulysses S. Grant. Bidding farewell to the army, Lee thanked his men for four years of [illegible] and fortitude. The war was over, an era had spent itself. The nation would now turn to the problems of reunion and peace.

For nine months, from June 1864 to April 1865, Grant's Federal Armies besieged Richmond and Petersburg, last strongholds of [illegible] the Confederate government. The campaign was a study of attrition. As losses, captures, and desertion thinned Lee's defensive line, Grant was strengthened by the arrival of armies from other theaters. As the battle of Five Forks on April 1, a union victory compelled Lee to evacuate his position to save his army. the next day the Confederates marched away from Petersburg and headed west, intending to pick up rations at Amelia Court House, then proceed down the railroad to Danville, and ultimately join forces with General Joseph E. Johnston, operating in North Carolina.

At Amelia Court House, Lee's hungry and exhausted veterans found no rations waiting. At Jetersville, a strong Union cavalry force under Sheridan blocked the retreat south and caused Lee to turn west toward Lynchburg. At Sayler's Creek on April 6, the Confederate rearguard was cut off and over 7,000 men captured. At Farmville, Lee barely beat Grant across the Appomattox, but the race was so close that the main bridge went undestroyed, and Grant continued to press hard on Lee's heels.

By Saturday night, April 8, in camp just east of Appomattox Court House, Lee realized that his army was trapped seeing the light of Union campfires to the south, east and west.

At a council of war that evening, Lee and his generals decided on one last try the next morning. If only cavalry lay ahead of them, then perhaps they could break out. At dawn on April 9, Lee sent General Fitzhugh Lee with cavalry and General John B. Gordon with infantry to drive back Union horsemen blocking Richmond-Lynchburg Stage road west of the village of Appomattox Court House. They brushed the cavalry only to run into Union General E. O. C. Ord's Union infantry. Ord stopped the Confederates, pushed them back, and by 10:00 a.m. had themselves advanced to the western outskirts of Appomattox Court House.

Lee now faced his last decision on a field of battle. As an informal truce brought quiet along the battleline, Lee sought to arrange a meeting with Grant to discuss surrender terms. His only alternative was more futile bloodshed and the destruction of this fast dwindling force.

About 12:15 p.m. Lt. Col. Orville Babcock, aide to Grant, delivered a note to Lee informing him of Grant's willingness to confer on term. At Lee's direction, Col. Charles Marshall, his aide, went off to find a [illegible] meeting place. A messenger finally found Grant and turned him toward Appomattox Court House, where Lee, Marshall, and Babcock now waited in the parlor of Wilmer McLean's house.

Grant arrived at the red-brick house about 1:30 p.m. after completing a 23 mile ride. Walking his horse to the house, he dismounted and climbed the wide steps. His hard ride was reflected in his casual dress. He wore the uniform of a private solider, with the tacked-on insigna straps of a lieutenant general, and his trousers and boots were spattered with mud.

Rising when Grant entered, Lee started across the room and the two shook hands briefly with quiet greetings. Lee, by contrast, was dressed faultlessly, with sash and his finest sword buckled to his side. Then Grant's staff entered the room. After some talk, mainly of old army days, Lee turned the conservation to the matter at hand. Grant's terms were generous: all men would be set free upon their promise never to take up arms against the U. S. Government again; officers could keep their sidearms and horses; and men in the ranks who claimed to own horses or mules could keep them, as Grant put it, "to work their little farms."

"This will have the best possible effect upon the men," said Lee. "It will be very gratifying and will do much toward conciliating our people."

The terms and acceptance were drafted in final form and signed by Lee and Grant. In little more than an hour, the ceremony was over.

On April 12, Lee's veterans marched as unit for the last time. Crossing the Appomattox at a shallow ford, they filed up the steep hill and past lines of blueclad soldiers to stack their arms and battle flags in the village. Many wept as they laid their battle flags across the weapson, but some tore the banners into bits, rather than surrender them, and passed out the pieces. All told, 28,231 Confederates were paroled at Appomattox, as Federals watched silently or stood guard in the village.

Though a few other units would yet have to surrender, and the Confederate political leaders were still at large, the war was now over. In McLean's year, violets and daffodils bloomed in a requiem of sorts, and tomorrow the sun would rise on one Nation, not two.

This Friday

Anniversary observance set

An anniversary observance marking the end of the Civil War will take place at Appomattox Court House National Historical Park on Good Friday.

Friday, Apirl 9, a historical talk on Lee' surrender to Grant at the McLean House will be conducted at 1:30 p.m.

The 8;-minute documentary film, **Surrender at Appomattox**, will be shown in the Visitor Center auditorium at 11:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m.

Two 15-minute interpretive slide programs will be shown on an alternating schedule in the Visitor Center auditorium throughout the day.

Eastern National Park and Monument Association and U. S. Postal Service will sponsor a special pictorial cancellation at the Old Meeks General Store and Post Office. The special hand cancellation will use the park logo along with the words "Where Our Nation Reunited". Cachet envelopes will only be hand stamped on the anniversary date.

Appomattox Court House National Historical Park is located 3 miles north of Appomattox, Virginia on State Route 24. The park is open daily 8:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. and has a $1.00 per-vehicle entry fee.

Father Darkleaf

By CALVIN ROBINSON

Thus far we have had the "Case of the Hesitant Spring." The calendar gave us the green light. Garden tractors went into action. Lawnmowers roared approval (mine started on the third pull of the cord after winter's hibernation). Birds frolicked over plowed land and I saw one bumblebee. Glorious Spring. But, alas, the weather has been anything but springlike. Winds howled and March demanded and got a rerun. As I write Monday morning, they warn us that we may have a dash of snow. Heavens to Betsy, we want Spring, the Easter Parade, and baseball. I had forgotten about my lone cherry tree until I found it in full bloom. Things may appear as tricky as a canoe race on the Upper Appomattox River, but they will fall in line. Patience, gentle friends.

* * *

Checked the new telephone directories, and once again the last name in the directory is that of Edward K. Zopp, Highway 654, Appomattox.

* * *

Week of April 18-24 is National Coin Week, so proclaimed in Virginia by His Honor, the Governor. Do you have any coins worth more than their face value? Indianhead pennies, etc.? In honor of Coin Week I will try to save enough quarters to go to the Laundromat. Good news gets mixed in with the bad. Such as gasoline down an average of eight cents per gallon in March. May even reach a dollar per gallon.

* * *

With unemployment growing as a problem, Appomattox is holding up well as to number of people working. Time for a salute to employers. Latest figures show Virginia with unemployed rate of 8.4; Appomattox 5.2.

* *

Congratulations to our Lions Club for a successful White Cane Day for sight conservation.

* * *

Passed by our school corner of Church Street and Confederate Blvd. and saw a class studying outdoors. Another sign of Spring.

* * *

Awoke Saturday morning and looked out to see that my garden spot had been plowed. Thanks, R.W.M., and come the discing will plant my sunflower seed and start looking for tomato plants.

* * *

I note high scores in early college baseball games. Like 15-13. ACHS is off to a good start and it would help to have lots of fan support.

* * *

Friday is April 9, Appomattox's date in History. I asked a group of local young people recently how many had been in the McLean House, and every hand went up! How about you?

* * *

Everyone knows that chickens come from eggs. But lots of chickens are natives of the famed Delmarva Peninsula. According to The Millsboro, Del. Delmarva News, 9.78 million broiler chicks were placed in the week ending March 6. The Maryland-Delaware Crop Reporting Service keeps tab. A chicken in every pot?

* *

Stephen Grellet, the poet, once stated: "I expect to pass through this world but once; any good thing I can do, or any kindness that I can show to any fellow creature, let me do it now." Thanks for reading and seeya around.

Lions will meet

The Appomattox Lions Club will observe Ladies Night on Thursday, April 8 at 6:30 p.m. at the Appomattox County High School cafeteria.

The program will be a musical presentation by the Appomattox County High School Chorale under the direction of Steve Lawrence.

"The Lions would like to thank the people of Appomattox for their generous support of our White Cane Sale Drive," said Lion Murrell Ferguson.

THE INSPIRATIONS will be singing at the Appomattox County High School auditorium on Friday evening, April 9 at 8 p.m., sponsored by the Appomattox County Youth Association. Tickets are available at the Dairy Queen and the Appomattox Rexall Drug Store here in Appomattox. Tickets are also available at the Farmville Auto Parts and Carpet House in Farmville; in Dillwyn at Western Auto; in Cumberland at the Cumberland Building and Supply; at the Village Market in Concord; at Western Auto in Altavista and in Lynchburg at the Christian Book Store. For further information contact Sam Carter at 352-8909.

APR